concerned authorities are not taking serious action on these representations and are giving assurances only to the residents that proper supply would be ensured in the near future; and

(d) whether Government would take stringent action against the officials of the Jal Nigam so that residents could get proper drinking water and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has reported that no such representation is available in their office record.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam reported that Bara water supply scheme is being maintained by the Garhwal Jal Santha, since 1990 and the same agency is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the drinking water scheme.

Special Package for SEBs

2950. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged the Prime Minister to ask the Ministry of Power to evolve a special package for the State Electricity Boards regarding ongoing projects languishing for want of funds;

(b) whether the fast deteriorating power situation, mounting losses being incurred by these State Electricity Boards and non-implementation of the private sector participation was the biggest singular threat to the country's economic development; and

(c) if so, whether any concrete measures have been suggested by the Prime Minister to evolve a new package for power sector; if so, by when the same is likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) There has been a general debate in various fora in the country about the Power Sector including unsustainable losses being incurred by the State Electricity Boards, the shortages of resources to complete the ongoing power projects and the progress of private sector participation. A Chief Ministers' Conference was held recently to evolve a Common Minimum National Action Plan for the power sector. Based on the suggestions made in the Conference, the Action Plan is being finalised in the Ministry of Power.

Task Force for Wasteland Development

2951. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Wasteland Development Task Force (WDTF) for regeneration of inaccessible and inhospitable wastelands in the country, through afforestation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the WDTF has been constituted in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India (Deptt. of Wastelands Development) have constituted a Wasteland Development Task Force (WDTF) for Development of non-forest wastelands in the inhospitable and inaccessible ravines in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh through afforestation including soil and moisture conservation measures. With the approval of the Ministry of Defence, WDTF of 300 ex-servicemen is to work under the command of the Territorial Army Directorate. The State Government has made available about 1100 ha. of ravinous wastelands for development by the said Force over a period of 3 years. The total cost for development of they project area is expected to be about Rs. 3.75 crores out of which only a small amount towards planting and fencing material is to be borne by the State

Government. The Force is expected to complete its work by the year 1997-98. After completion of the project, the developed land is to be handed over to the State Government/ local Panchayat for protection and for providing the benefit of usu-fructs, etc. to the local population.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No Wasteland Development Task Force (WDTF) has yet been constituted by the department of Wastelands Development in the State of Gujarat as no proposal for the same has so far been received.

Corruption in Sikkim

2952. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of Sikkim Sangram Parishad party had submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions about the corruption and misuses of power in Sikkim, as reported in the national dailies of 7th and 8th August, 1996;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) whether any preliminary inquiry has been conducted; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) A memorandum dated August 3, 1996 was addressed to the Prime Minister by the President of the Sikkim Sangram Parishad alleging corruption and misuse of powers of Sikkim.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Import of Cryogenic Engine Technology

2953. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has finally refused to provide the cryogenic engine technology to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on our rocket programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) this has arisen due to the interpretation of Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) regulations with regard to the agreement entered into between India and Russia, for the technology transfer and training. The provision for technology transfer from the original 1991 agreement was deleted after renegotiation during 1993.

(c) While there may be marginal delays, it is not expected to cause any major setback to the programme. Government has approved the development of indigenous cryogenic upper stage project in 1994. With the current level of progress in this complex technology, an ambitious goal of realising the indigenous stage is set for the time frame of 1999-2000. Seven cryo stages from Russia will be available to maintain GSLV flights till our own stage is qualified.

गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों के विषय में विभिन्न मत

2954. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या के संबंध में विभिन्न मत विद्यमान है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंत तक गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या क्या होगी, इस संबंध में सरकार का क्या आकलन है; और

(ग) सरकार ने गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या संबंधी आकलन किन-किन आधारों पर तय किया है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र के. अलघ): (क) और (ख) योजना आयोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे के लोगों की संख्या का अनुमान ''न्यूनतम आवश्यकता एवं प्रभावी खपत मांग'' से संबंधित कार्यबल की रिपोर्ट में उल्लिखित प्रणाली के आधार पर लगाता है। निर्धनों के अनुपात एवं संख्या के अनुमान पर